

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability Waste Working Group Meeting Report
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Date: June 11, 2008

Subject: Waste Working Group Meeting

Attendees: Keith Losoya, Beth Strommen, Sidney Rankin, Olivia Farrow, Gary Kennedy, Hugh Pocock, Tonya Simmons, Robin Davidov, Anne Colgan, Betty Bland-Thomas, Melvin Thompson, Brett Buikema

Discussion: The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the scope of the Waste Working Group as a part of the Sustainability Commission and to define a Vision Statement for the group.

Topics Addressed:

- Overview of the Commission and the Ordinances establishing it as well as the process of developing a vision, goals, indicators, and targets.
- Definition of a “Vision” as it pertains to goals and expectations as well as the idea of combining realistic and idealistic visions into a single statement.
- Several issues arose that could be that basis for future discussions and specific goals. These include:
 - Zero waste vs. minimal waste
 - Waste as a design issue not just a management issue
 - The development of specific goals to insure job creation and economic development within the City of Baltimore
 - Ideas about how to pay for Waste Management Programs
 - Increased access to recycling for apartment dwellers, etc.
 - The need for specific indicators to rate progress
 - The need for an inventory of current waste/recycling programs

Vision Statement:

Baltimore will be recognized as a national and international leader in the local reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste through the promotion of sustainable design, educated purchasing decisions, public outreach, and improved access while balancing human, environmental, and economic needs.

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, June 13, 2008 – Waste Facility Field Trip (See Page 2)
- Tuesday June 17, 2008 – Waste Working Group Public Listening Session
Department of Planning, 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor

Waste Working Group Field Trip Summary

Date: Friday, June 13, 2008

Subject: Waste Working Group Field Trip

Locations Attended: Waste Management
7175 Kit Kat Road
Elkridge, MD 21075

Curtis Creek Recovery
23 Stahl Point Road
Curtis Bay, MD 21226

cdm eCycling
1607 Wicomico Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

Summary of Themes:

- The need for public education on all the elements of waste and recycling
- Making recycling easy for the public
- The difficulty of sorting material after disposal
- Educate to separate and the possibility of switching to weekly 1/1 pickup
- Baltimore's existing infrastructure for transfer and processing
- Trucking waste to VA is cheap, but the environmentally poorest choice leading to increased emissions from the trucks and a waste of resources
- Need regulations for recycling, otherwise market will seek cheapest option, often the landfill
- Baltimore's single stream recycling is relatively "clean", low contaminant level, low rate of discard
- There is a need to clarify that single stream is not as inclusive as implied and work to speed up the market for currently uncollected materials
- The need for the promotion of electronic recycling and exploration of bringing businesses to Baltimore that utilize the recycled materials

Proposed Ideas For The Next Trip:

- BRESCO
- Landfill/City Transfer Station
- Composting Facility
- Baltimore County Sorting Station